

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 are pending in this application.

By this Amendment, claim 11 is added. Claim 11 is supported by the description on page 14, line 24-page 15, line 6; and page 29, lines 7-11 of the specification and Fig. 1.

No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the reference submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement concurrently filed herewith.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, and 6-8 under 35 §U.S.C. 102(b) over Kyushima et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,881,008) (Kyushima) and claims 5, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kyushima in view of Suyama et. al. (US 6,198,221) (Suyama). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

Specifically, Applicants assert that neither Kyushima or Suyama disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, a multi-anode type of photomultiplier tube having at least a photocathode, a partitioning wall, and a shield electrode that are maintained at the same potential, as recited in independent claim 1.

Kyushima fails to disclose maintaining the photocathodes 2-5, partitioning walls 14-16, and focusing electrodes 10-13 at the same potential. Kyushima does disclose that "predetermined voltages are applied through stem pins 50 and lead wires (not shown) to the photocathodes 2-5, the focusing electrodes 10-13, the first through tenth dynodes 20-29, and the anode electrodes 30-33 by an external circuit (not shown)." See, Kyushima C6/L3-9). Kyushima omits the partitioning walls 14-16 from the list of elements to which the predetermined voltages are applied.

Kyushima discloses that the lower end portions of the partition walls 14-16 are secured through spacers 50-55 to the focusing electrodes 10-13 and serve to arrange the focusing electrodes 10-13 "at the same intervals as" photocathodes 2-5. The partitioning

walls 14-16 are mechanically, rather than electrically "coupled" to the focusing electrodes 10-13. See, Kyushima C5/L17-26).

Applicants respectfully assert that it would be contrary to Kyushima's purpose to hold the partitioning walls 14-16 at the same potential as the focusing electrodes 10-13 and the photocathodes 2-5. Specifically the focusing electrodes 10-13 serve to "converge" photoelectrons and cause them to "impinge" on dynodes. Maintaining the partition walls 14-16 at the same potential as the focusing electrodes 10-13 would reduce the desired convergence effect.

Suyama does not make up for the above-noted deficiencies of Kyushima. In particular, Suyama discloses a screen electrode for the purpose of suppressing "feedback of the positive ion generated at the electron entrance of the semiconductor device."

Accordingly, Applicants assert that neither Kyushima or Suyama disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, a multi-anode type of photomultiplier tube having at least a photocathode, a partitioning wall, and a shield electrode that are maintained at the same potential, as recited in independent claim 1.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Kyushima fails to disclose or suggest the combination of features recited by independent claim 1, which is therefore patentable over Kyushima. Claims 2-4 and 6-8 depend from claim 1 and are therefore patentable over Kyushima for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Claims 5, 9, and 10 depend from claim 1, and are therefore patentable over Kyushima in view of Suyama for at least the same reasons, as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 11 is patentable at least for the patentability of claim 1, from which it depends, as well as for additional features it recites.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments:

Information Disclosure Statement
Petition for Extension of Time

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